

## **In Our Prayers This Week**

It is so important that we remember one another in prayer. During this week, please focus your prayers on the following members who were picked randomly: Richard DeBenedetto; Chad Francour; Jack and Kathy Heimbuch; Diane Lynch; Joan Nowakowski; Greg Peanosky; Sarge and Joni Rudell; Sandra Tessmer.



### **Flowers**

The flowers on the altar are given by Karen and Lanse Dill and are in loving memory of William Winter.

Please call Zion's office (715-735-7898) or send an email ([Zion@newbc.rr.com](mailto:Zion@newbc.rr.com)) if you would like to sponsor the flowers for a specific Sunday. The cost is \$15.

## **What's Around the Corner?**

- Dec. 18:** Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary service. Spark Program.
- Dec. 24:** Nativity of our Lord, 8 p.m. worship and via Facebook Live. With special music, candlelight and Holy Communion.
- Dec. 25:** Nativity of Our Lord II, 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With lessons and Christmas carols and hymns.
- Jan. 1:** First Sunday of Christmas, 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.



### **Sew For Missions in Need of Donations**

Sew for Missions is in need of material and monetary donations. Materials such as clean, flat sheets or left over fabric would be greatly appreciated! Thank you for your generosity.

## **You Are All Angels!!**

Thank you people of Zion! You made Christmas merrier for 30 kids this year with your gifts to the Salvation Army. Your generosity shows one of the many ways we are blessed to be a blessing.

Special thanks to Sharon & John Powilaites who delivered the gifts to the Salvation Army after we sorted through them on December 7th.

Merry Christmas!

Heidi Beland on behalf of Zion's Social Ministry Committee





### **Birthday Blessings to You**

December 20: Dawn Vincent

December 21: Carrie Heitmeier, Lori Kirt

December 22: Presley Schroeder

### **Thank you to our Worship Assistants!**

Thank you to Karen Dill for serving as our lector, communion assistant and setting up communion; to Ann Buscher for serving as our usher; and to Nik Williams for serving as our acolyte on Sunday.

The volunteers for Christmas Eve are Dave Johnson as our lector; Karen Sylvester as our communion assistant; Mark Swenson as our usher; and Carol Johnson will set up communion.

If you'd like to volunteer to serve as lector or usher please contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017. The readings for the particular Sunday will be shared with you days in advance and a copy will be printed for you to use. Thank you for your consideration!

### **Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays this Week**

December 19: Lisa Cook

December 21: Niklas Williams

December 22: Lori Kirt

December 23: David Despina



### **SPARK Bible Story**

The SPARK Story Bible reading for Sunday is found on page 196; "Angels Visit" based on the reading from Matthew 1:18-25.

### **Caroling, Caroling, Now We Go!**

We will go caroling to members of Zion on Sunday, December 18th. We will meet at the church at 2:00 p.m. Don't worry about missing the Packer game, which is on Monday night! We have 8-10 homes and it should take around 2 hours unless we have enough to divide into two groups. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the church. Thank you!

### **Zion to Host Blood Drive**

Zion is hosting a blood drive January 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the social hall. To make an appointment, people may call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or [schedule an appointment online.](#)



## **Pledge Card Reminder!**

The Stewardship and Generosity Committee along with Pastor Schoen wants to thank all those who have returned your financial Pledge Cards to date. It is our hope that before the end of December we can receive those that are still outstanding. Feel free to place them in the offering plate at worship or mail them to the church office.

## **Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services**

Christmas Eve service will be at 8 p.m. It will be a candlelight service with Holy Communion. Celebrate the Nativity of Jesus with us. Live streaming via Facebook Live will be available!

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. Even though the service will start at 9:30 a.m. as usual, this service will not be a typical Sunday service! There will be many carols and hymns interspersed with lessons. Come and join us Christmas morning!



## **Volunteers Needed for Synod Assembly**



Zion's Nominating Committee is seeking a married couple or individuals to attend the in-person Synod Assembly May 18-20, 2023, in Marquette, Michigan. These are elected positions that will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January. There will be an election for bishop taking place. Zion will cover your expenses for our voting members' travel, registration, lodging, and meals.

Marissa, Zion's Administrative Assistant, will take care of delegate registration and motel reservations. Materials and information will be available to you beginning in March.

If interested, please contact Karen Sylvester at 715-587-4206 or via email at [sylvesterkaren27@gmail.com](mailto:sylvesterkaren27@gmail.com). Thank you.

## **Tailgate for Fortune Lake a Success!**

Sunday, December 11 was a great day to Tailgate for Fortune Lake! Volunteers from 5 of the Menominee Valley Conference churches came together to prepare and serve brats and hot beverages to the community. The event raised \$5,253 to support the CoVantage Cares Giving Tuesday Challenge for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the event and everyone who stopped by for brats! It was great to see the collaboration between churches and shared love for our Bible camp.



## Upcoming Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Events

There will be a Winter Wonderland Retreat January 13-15 and is open for all ages!

Enjoy a hot sauna, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and all sorts of winter fun. The weekend will include opportunities to hear Scripture and reflect, enjoy quality time with family and friends, and play about in the winter wonderland of Fortune Lake.



**FORTUNE LAKE**  
*A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI*

The Young Adult Winter Retreat will be February 3-5 and is for people ages 18-28. Come and connect with other young adults while recharging yourself at Fortune Lake.

Fortune Lake is proud to continue the tradition of Senior Days for the elders in our region. This year's dates have been selected. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us on November 14, January 9, March 13 and May 8.

To register or find more information about either of these events, people can visit their [website!](#)

## A Note From The Financial Secretary For Vanco Members

If you have changed your donation for 2023 make sure you go to the VANCO website and change it there. You can make a new entry but make sure you have it start 1/1/23 and stop this years by entering 12/31/22.

If you have questions please feel free to call me at home, 715-735-7180, if I'm not there leave a message and I will call you back. This will alleviate any issues for next year.

Thank you for your help!  
Karen Houdek, Financial Secretary



## January Newsletter

A friendly reminder that articles and information for publication in the January Newsletter are due to Zion's office by Wednesday, December 21st. Thank you for your assistance!

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*A member of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*